



# The Florida House of Representatives

Chris Sprowls  
Speaker

## NEWS RELEASE

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### Media Contact:

[media@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:media@myfloridahouse.gov)

(850) 717-5780

## Representative Ardian Zika Files Portraits in Patriotism Act to Enhance Civics Education in Florida

**TALLAHASSEE, Fla.** (February 12, 2021) — Today, Representative Ardian Zika, R-Land O'Lakes, filed HB 5, the Portraits in Patriotism Act, to enhance integrated civics education in Florida.

During his Nov. 17, 2020, Organization Session speech to Members, Speaker Chris Sprowls made clear that patriotism should be a fundamental part of curriculum in Florida's schools.

*"I would love for every school-age child to be able to hear from Floridians – Americans – who hail from countries in Latin America or other parts of the world where freedom is a luxury and liberty a dream," said Speaker Sprowls. "Let them tell our school children why – of all the nations in the world – they chose the United States as their home. Let them say loudly and with pride in their voice – todos somos Americanos; we are all Americans."*

The Portraits in Patriotism Act directs the Florida Department of Education to build a "Portraits in Patriotism" video library of personal stories of diverse individuals who demonstrate civic-minded qualities to be used as part of a civic education curriculum.

The curriculum to be developed or approved by the Department of Education must be a part of regular school work in kindergarten through grade 12 in Florida public schools. It must assist children in developing an understanding of shared rights and responsibilities as residents of Florida and the founding principles of the United States.

"As an American who began my journey as an immigrant, I'm a product of America's exceptionalism," said Ardian Zika, sponsor of the legislation. "America is an amazing nation, and I am proud and blessed to be an American." [\[Download the video here\]](#)

Senator Ana Maria Rodriguez, R-Doral, will file a companion in the Florida Senate. For more information about HB 5, visit [www.myfloridahouse.gov](http://www.myfloridahouse.gov).

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